



Department of Justice

United States Attorney William W. Mercer
District of Montana

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CONTACT: KURT G. ALME
PHONE: (406) 247-4669
FAX: (406) 657-6055

MONTANA MAN SENTENCED FOR RECEIPT AND POSSESSION OF CHILD PORNOGRAPHY

BILLINGS – Elias Lime, a 53-year-old resident of Kalispell, was sentenced today to a term of 120 months in federal prison in connection with his guilty plea to receipt and possession of child pornography. Lime was also ordered to pay a special assessment of \$200, forfeit his computer equipment, and will be under supervision for life.

In an Offer of Proof filed by the United States, the government stated it would have proved at trial the following:

In July of 2005, agents with the Bureau of Immigration and Customs Enforcement received information that a computer belonging to Lime was engaged in peer-to-peer swapping of child pornography using a file-sharing program.

On September 16, 2005, ICE agents executed a search warrant at Lime's residence in Kalispell.

When questioned, Lime admitted that he had used file-sharing programs to obtain male child pornography. Lime admitted that he downloaded and shared images and videos of young children engaged in sexually explicit activities. Lime stated that he preferred young boys ages 8 to 13 but liked to look at pornography of young girls also.

Lime further admitted that he knew that the child pornography was illegal. Lime also stated that he likes young boys and that he would watch young children in his apartment complex.

A forensic examination of Lime's computer found numerous images and videos of child pornography, including images of children clearly under age 12 or prepubescent, and children engaged in sadistic or masochistic abuse or other depictions of violence.

Because there is no parole in the federal system, the "truth in sentencing" guidelines mandate that Lime will likely serve **all** of the time imposed by the court. In the federal system, Lime does have the opportunity to earn a sentence reduction for "good behavior." However, this reduction will not exceed 15% of the overall sentence.

The investigation was conducted by the Bureau of Immigration and Customs Enforcement. Assistant United States Attorney Marcia K. Hurd prosecuted the case.

“This case is being brought as part of Project Safe Childhood. In February 2006, Attorney General Alberto R. Gonzales created Project Safe Childhood, a nationwide initiative designed to protect children from online exploitation and abuse. Led by the United States Attorneys’ Offices, Project Safe Childhood marshals federal, state and local resources to better locate, apprehend, and prosecute individuals who exploit children via the Internet, as well as identify and rescue victims. For more information about Project Safe Childhood, please visit www.projectsafechildhood.gov/.”

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